

Report

Agricultural-Export to Countries Other Than India and Bangladesh in 2024



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Introduction

This report provides an overview of Bhutan's agricultural exports to countries other than India and Bangladesh as per the Bhutan Trade Statistics, 2024. While India and Bangladesh remain significant trading partners for Bhutan, this report focuses on the performance and key commodities exported to other international markets than the two countries.

Overview

Bhutan's agricultural exports, encompassing both primary and processed products, generated a total revenue of Nu. 3.51 billion in 2024. Of this, exports to countries other than India and Bangladesh amounted to Nu. 174.02 million, representing approximately 4.95% of the total agricultural export value.

Table 1: Destination country, number of commodities exported and export value

Sl No	Country	No. of primary commodities exported	No. of agro-processed commodities exported	Export Value (Nu.M)
1	Thailand	9	9	83.21
2	Vietnam	1	-	34.17
3	Japan	4	-	30.40
4	Hong Kong	1	-	7.02
5	Malaysia	-	1	5.46
6	Nepal	-	2	3.27
7	Singapore	19	8	3.07
8	Russian Federation	3	3	2.26
9	Germany	1	-	1.83
10	United Arab Emirates	2	-	0.90
11	Cambodia	1	-	0.90
12	Australia	1	-	0.77

13	Taiwan	1	-	0.66
14	China	1	-	0.08
15	United Kingdom	1	-	0.01
16	Switzerland	1	-	0.006
17	USA	1	-	0.005
Total				174.02

Key Export Destinations in 2024 (Excluding India and Bangladesh)

In 2024, Bhutan's agricultural exports (primary and processed) reached 17 countries beyond its primary markets of India and Bangladesh. These destinations included Australia, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. Countries like Hong Kong, China, Switzerland, Vietnam, the United States of America, United Kingdom, Taiwan, and Cambodia imported only Cordyceps from Bhutan.

1. Thailand

Thailand was Bhutan's largest export market beyond India and Bangladesh, with a total export value of Nu. 83.21million. This accounted for 47.82% of Bhutan's total exports to countries other than India and Bangladesh. The exports to Thailand comprised a diverse range of nine primary agricultural commodities and nine agro-processed products with Cordyceps being the major commodity exported. Table 2 shows the detailed information on the commodities exported to Thailand, including total quantity, value, and the number of exporters.

Table 2: List of commodities exported to Thailand

SI No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Total Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
Primary Commodities				
1	Cordyceps (kg)	83.72	55.24	1
2	Matsutake	5.09	20.69	4
3	Areca Nut (Shelled)	2.00	3.41	1

4	Other Spices	0.03	2.36	1
5	Mushrooms of the genus Cantharellus	0.10	0.46	1
6	Red Rice	0.16	0.10	1
7	Other Black Tea	0.03	0.08	1
8	Truffles	0.03	0.02	1
9	Turmeric	0.01	0.01	1
Agro-processed				
10	Crushed or Ground Pepper	0.54	0.28	3
11	Apples (Dried)	0.35	0.16	1
12	Chilli (Dried)	0.21	0.16	1
13	Chillies, Crushed or ground	0.05	0.08	1
14	Other dried vegetables (Mixture of Vegetables)	0.09	0.06	1
15	Other dried fruit except 08.01 to 08.06	0.06	0.04	1
16	Poe (Incense Stick)	0.07	0.03	
17	Bamboo shoots, preserved by other than vinegar or acetic acid.	0.01	0.02	1
18	Mixture of nuts and dried fruits	0.03	0.01	1
	Total	7.52	83.21	

2. Japan

Japan was a significant export market for Bhutan, importing Nu. 30.40 million worth of agricultural goods, representing 17.47% of Bhutan's total agricultural exports to countries other

than India and Bangladesh. The exports to Japan consisted of four primary agricultural commodities, with Matsutake mushrooms being the most prominent. No agro-processed products were exported to Japan during the year. Detailed information on the exported commodities, including total quantity, value, and the number of exporters, is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: List of commodities exported to Japan

SI No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
1	Matsutake	4.77	29.45	4
2	Buckwheat	20.24	0.85	1
3	Natural Honey	0.15	0.07	1
4	Cordyceps (kg)	0.06	0.03	2
	Total	25.16	30.40	

3. Nepal

Bhutan's agro-processed exports to Nepal were limited to two commodities, totaling a value of Nu. 3.27 million as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: List of commodities exported to Nepal

SI No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
1	Poe (Incense Stick)	15.03	3.26	-
2	Unfermented Green Tea	0.017	0.01	1
	Total	15.04	3.27	

4. Singapore

Singapore imported a diverse range of Bhutanese agricultural commodities in 2024, despite its lower export value. A total of 19 primary commodities and 8 agro-processed products were exported to Singapore. Detailed information on these commodities is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: List of commodities exported to Singapore

SI No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
Primary Commodities				
1	Cordyceps (kg)	2.34	0.73	7
2	Turmeric	0.74	0.47	4
3	Asparagus	0.58	0.36	1
4	Garlic	0.87	0.33	11
5	Matsutake	0.03	0.31	1
6	Ginger	0.41	0.16	1
7	Other Black Tea	0.07	0.16	1
8	Tomatoes	0.33	0.12	1
9	Coffee (other than roasted or unroasted)	0.12	0.10	2
10	Roasted Coffee (Not decaffeinated)	0.05	0.06	1
11	Other Pharmaceutical Plants	0.02	0.03	1
12	Sweet Potatoes	0.002	0.001	1
13	Red Rice	0.001	0.001	1
14	Truffles	0.001	0.001	1
15	Buckwheat	0.003	0.001	1
16	Pepper	0.0003	0.0002	1
17	Rice (in the husk)	0.001	0.0002	1

18	Other Vegetables	0.001	0.0001	1
Agro-processed				
19	Chillies, Crushed or ground	0.002	0.20	2
20	Frozen Potatoes	0.10	0.02	1
21	Other Food Preparation	0.04	0.01	1
22	Unfermented Green Tea	0.002	0.003	1
23	Chilli (Dried)	0.004	0.002	2
24	Poe (Incense Stick)	0.001	0.002	
25	Pasta (other pasta without eggs)	0.001	0.001	1
26	Natural Honey	0.002	0.0003	1
27	Other Cheese	0.0004	0.0003	1
	Total	3.37	3.07	

5. Russian Federation

Bhutan exported three primary agricultural commodities and three agro-processed products to Russia, with a total value of Nu. 2.26 million and a volume of 0.29 MT.

Table 6: List of commodities exported to Russian Federation

Sl No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
Primary Commodities				
1	Cordyceps (kg)	2	0.39	1
2	Other Spices	0.06	0.34	1

3	Turmeric	0.06	0.32	1
Agro-processed				
4	Other Food Preparation	0.14	1.06	1
5	Chillies, Crushed or ground	0.03	0.14	1
6	Crushed of ground Ginger	0.004	0.01	1
	Total	0.29	2.26	

6. United Arab Emirates

Only two commodities, spices and cordyceps, were exported to the United Arab Emirates in 2024, with a total value of Nu. 0.9 million.

Table 7: List of commodities exported to United Arab Emirates

Sl No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
1	Other Spices	0.001	0.89	1
2	Cordyceps (kg)	0.01	0.005	1
	Total	0.001	0.90	

7. Other Countries

The following table lists the countries that imported only a single agricultural commodity from Bhutan in 2024, with Cordyceps being the predominant import for many of these countries.

Table 8: List of commodities exported to other countries

Sl No	Country	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No of Exporters
1	Malaysia	Crushed or ground ginger	8	5.46	1

2	Germany	Pepper	1	1.83	1
3	Australia	Hazelnut	3.62	0.77	1
4	Vietnam	Cordyceps (kg)	75.35	34.17	22
5	Hong Kong	Cordyceps (kg)	7.35	7.02	3
6	Cambodia	Cordyceps (kg)	1	0.9	1
7	Taiwan	Cordyceps (kg)	1.53	0.66	4
8	China	Cordyceps (kg)	0.07	0.08	1
9	United Kingdom	Cordyceps (kg)	0.009	0.01	1
10	Switzerland	Cordyceps (kg)	0.02	0.006	1
11	USA	Cordyceps (kg)	0.01	0.005	1
	Total			50.91	

Key Agricultural Commodities Exported in 2024 (Excluding India and Bangladesh)

1. Primary Commodities

In 2024, Bhutan exported 21 different primary commodities to countries other than India and Bangladesh. The top exported commodity by value was Cordyceps, with exports worth Nu. 99.24 million. Following Cordyceps, the next most valuable exports were Matsutake (Nu. 50.45 million), Spices (Nu. 3.59 million), and shelled Arecanut (Nu. 3.41 million).

Cordyceps was also the top export commodity based on export volume. After Cordyceps, the largest export volumes were Buckwheat (20.24 MT), Matsutake (9.9 MT), and Hazelnut (3.62 MT). Tables 9 and 10 provide more details on the major primary commodities exported in 2024, based on their export value and volume.

Table 9: List of primary commodities exported to countries other than India and Bangladesh based on value

Sl No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No. of Countries	No. of Exporters
1	Cordyceps (kg)	173.46	99.24	13	45
2	Matsutake	9.88	50.45	3	6
3	Other Spices	0.09	3.59	3	3
4	Arecanut, shelled	2.00	3.41	1	1
5	Pepper	1.00	1.83	2	2
6	Buckwheat	20.24	0.85	2	2
7	Turmeric	0.80	0.80	3	6
8	Hazelnut	3.62	0.77	1	1
9	Mushrooms of the genus Cantharellus	0.10	0.46	1	1
10	Asparagus	0.58	0.36	1	1
11	Garlic	0.87	0.33	1	1
12	Other Black Tea	0.10	0.24	2	2
13	Ginger	0.41	0.16	1	1
14	Tomatoes	0.33	0.12	1	1
15	Red Rice	0.16	0.10	2	2
16	Coffee (other than roasted or unroasted)	0.12	0.10	1	2
17	Roasted Coffee (Not decaffeinated)	0.05	0.06	1	1
18	Other Pharmaceutical Plants	0.02	0.03	1	1
19	Truffles	0.03	0.02	2	2
20	Sweet potatoes	0.002	0.001	1	1

Table 10: List of primary commodities exported to countries other than India and Bangladesh based on volume

Sl No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No. of Countries	No. of Exporters
1	Cordyceps (kg)	173.46	99.24	13	45
2	Buckwheat	20.24	0.85	2	2
3	Matsutake	9.9	50.45	3	6
4	Hazelnut	3.62	0.77	1	1
5	Arecanut, shelled	2	3.41	1	1
6	Pepper	1	1.83	2	2
7	Garlic	0.87	0.33	1	1
8	Turmeric	0.8	0.80	3	6
9	Asparagus	0.58	0.36	1	1
10	Ginger	0.41	0.16	1	1
11	Tomatoes	0.33	0.12	1	1
12	Red Rice	0.16	0.10	2	2
13	Coffee (other than roasted or unroasted)	0.12	0.10	1	2
14	Mushrooms of the genus Cantharellus	0.1	0.46	1	1
15	Other Black Tea	0.1	0.24	2	2
16	Other Spices	0.09	3.59	3	3
17	Roasted Coffee (Not decaffeinated)	0.05	0.06	1	1
18	Truffles	0.03	0.02	1	2
19	Other Pharmaceutical	0.02	0.03	1	1

	Plants				
20	Sweet potatoes	0.002	0.001	1	1
21	Other Vegetables	0.001	0.0001	1	1

2. Agro-processed Commodities

Bhutan exported 14 different agro-processed commodities to countries other than India and Bangladesh. The top three agro-processed exports by value were crushed/grounded Ginger (Nu. 5.46 million), other food preparations (Nu. 1.08 million), and crushed/grounded Pepper (Nu. 0.28 million).

Considering the volume of exports, the top three agro-processed commodities were crushed/grounded Ginger (8 MT), crushed/grounded Pepper (0.54 MT), and dried chilli (0.22 MT). Tables 11 and 12 contain further details on the major agro-processed commodities exported in 2024, categorized by their export value and volume.

Table 11: List of agro-processed commodities exported to countries other than India and Bangladesh based on export value

Sl No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No. of Countries	No. of Exporters
1	Crushed or Ground Ginger	8.00	5.46	2	2
2	Other Food Preparation	0.18	1.08	2	2
3	Crushed or Ground Pepper	0.54	0.28	1	3
4	Chillies, Crushed or ground	0.08	0.42	3	4
5	Chilli (Dried)	0.22	0.16	2	3
6	Natural Honey	0.15	0.07	2	2
7	Other dried vegetables	0.09	0.06	1	1
8	Other dried fruit except 08.01 to 08.06	0.06	0.04	1	1
9	Frozen Potatoes	0.10	0.02	1	1
10	Bamboo shoots, preserved by other than vinegar or acetic acid	0.01	0.02	1	1
11	Mixture of nuts and dried fruits	0.03	0.01	1	1
12	Unfermented Green Tea	0.02	0.01	2	2

13	Pasta (other pasta without eggs)	0.001	0.001	1	1
14	Other Cheese	0.0004	0.0003	1	1

Table 12: List of agro-processed commodities exported to countries other than India and Bangladesh based on export volume

Sl No	Commodity	Export Volume (MT)	Export Value (Nu.M)	No. of Countries	No. of Exporters
1	Crushed or Ground Ginger	8.00	5.46	2	2
3	Crushed or Ground Pepper	0.54	0.28	1	3
5	Chilli (Dried)	0.22	0.16	2	3
2	Other Food Preparation	0.18	1.08	2	2
6	Natural Honey	0.15	0.07	2	2
9	Frozen Potatoes	0.10	0.02	1	1
7	Other dried vegetables	0.09	0.06	1	1
4	Chillies, Crushed or ground	0.08	0.42	3	4
8	Other dried fruit except 08.01 to 08.06	0.06	0.04	1	1
11	Mixture of nuts and dried fruits	0.03	0.01	1	1
12	Unfermented Green Tea	0.02	0.01	2	2
10	Bamboo shoots, preserved by other than vinegar or acetic acid	0.01	0.02	1	1
13	Pasta (other pasta without eggs)	0.001	0.001	1	1
14	Other Cheese	0.0004	0.0003	1	1

Conclusion

Bhutan's agricultural export in 2024 reached 17 other countries beyond its primary markets, India and Bangladesh. Thailand emerged as the leading destination, followed by Japan, with

significant contributions also coming from Nepal and Singapore. The key export commodities driving this performance were high-value items such as Cordyceps and Matsutake, alongside a variety of primary products like spices and shelled arecanut, and processed goods including crushed/grounded Ginger and other food preparations, indicating a broadening scope of Bhutan's agricultural trade.